

August 10, 1999

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

City Clerk Herbers announced in Chambers at 5:30 p.m. that a quorum was not present but was expected at 6:15 p.m.

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10, 1999, with all members present except Councilmember Lee, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Horwich, Lee\*, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker, and Mayor Hardison.

\*Councilmember Lee arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

Agenda Item No. 16 was considered out of order at this time.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:15 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c), the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss item 16c as listed on the meeting agenda.

At 7:10 p.m., the Council returned to Council Chambers and the meeting reconvened in regular agenda order. No action was taken on any matter heard in closed session.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

Boy Scout Troop #310, Bruce Maas, Scoutmaster, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rev. Dr. Hillary Chrisley, Walteria Methodist Church, gave the invocation for the meeting.

Mayor Hardison requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired Fire Capt. Joseph Warren, a member of the Torrance Fire Department for 30 years.

**3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. **WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Hardison announced that the Parks & Recreation Department Summer Musical, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, will be held August 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> & August 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at the James Armstrong Theater. For information and times call the box office (310) 781-7171.

Mayor Hardison invited people to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Aquacade, "Rockin' Through the Years," on August 20 and 21, 1999, at 8:15 p.m. at the Victor E. Benstead Plunge. For information call (310) 781-7113.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 1999**

7b. **METROPOLITAN COOPERATIVE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S ADVISORY BOARD**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Librarian that City Council appoint Jamie Watson as the Torrance delegate to the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System's Advisory Board, and Peggy Basile as alternate to the Board.

7c. **PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF EDUCATION GRANT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Librarian that City Council accept and appropriate a \$2,772.00 grant from the California State Library for the Public Library Staff Education Program.

7d. **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ANNUAL GOAL**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council adopt a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal of 14% for fiscal year (FY) 1999-

2000, for projects assisted by United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds.

7e. **CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Award the contract to P & J Utility Co. in the amount of \$680,910 for the construction of Water Main Replacements 1998-99 Project 1 (Phase II) and Citywide Fire Hydrant Replacement Project and Dominguez Street/Madrid Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement and Water Reclamation Project Retrofits of Columbia Park and Magruder School;
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$34,046; and
- 3) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest said agreement.

7f. **TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER FOUNDATION AGREEMENT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council approve an amendment of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation Agreement to extend the period of the agreement for a period commencing August 10, 1999 and expiring June 30, 2000.

**MOTION:** After clarification of supplemental material concerning item 7d by Mayor Hardison, Councilmember O'Donnell moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items a, b, c, d, e, and f as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

9. **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

9a. **PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO NEWTON STREET**

**Recommendation**

- a. Recommendation of the Planning Director that City Council:
  - 1) Approve the installation of semi diverters at the intersection of Newton Street, Ocean Avenue and 244<sup>th</sup> Street to disallow through traffic between Hawthorne Boulevard and Vista Montana;
  - 2) Approve the installation of full diverter at Ocean and 242<sup>nd</sup> Street;
  - 3) Approve the removal of the existing left turn restrictions at Vista Montana and Newton Street;
  - 4) Approve the removal of the left turn restrictions from northbound Hawthorne Boulevard to Newton Street, 244<sup>th</sup> Street and 242<sup>nd</sup> Street;
  - 5) Approve the installation of all-way stop controls at the intersections of Newton Street/Hare Lane and Newton Street/Highgrove Avenue;
  - 6) Approve the installation of a set of chokers on Newton Street in the vicinity of Richardson Middle School; and
  - 7) Approve the recommended implementation as a two-phase project. Phase I would be an evaluation period for one year with the preliminary

installation of the above mitigation. Phase II would be, depending upon the first year evaluations, the permanent installation of the above recommendations.

Former Transportation Manager Helene Buchman related that neighborhood meetings had taken place in March, April and June in order to inform the public of the proposals and receive community input.

Mr. Mark Miller, Albert Grover and Associates, commented that he had been working with City staff for the past year, and provided a summarized analysis of the recommended two-phase plan to alleviate the traffic problems.

Project Manager Sedadi related that Phase I would be less expensive and can be removed since it would be set up as a temporary experimental project, and Phase II would consist of more permanent structures, and more neighborhood meetings would be held.

Mr. William Surnaski, 24219 Ocean Avenue, commented that the plan blocked a west exit to his children's school and his work causing an inconvenience to his household and approximately 200 other households.

Mr. George Acosta, 4130 Newton Street, urged the Council not to approve Recommendation #3, which called for the removal of the "no left turn" sign at Vista Montana and Newton Street because it would cause greater traffic problems.

Ms. Ann Ferrelli, expressed concern for the inconvenience of the residents at 90277 and the need for both east and west residents to share in this pollution and aggravation.

Mr. Arnold Glen, 4136 Newton, 28-year Torrance resident, urged the City Council not to adopt Recommendation #3, removal of the existing "no left turn" sign at Vista Montana and Newton Street.

Ms. Christine Plungas, 24243 Ocean Avenue, reiterated the need to retain the "no left turn" sign at Vista Montana and Newton Street.

Mr. Johnny Tai, 441 Calle Mayor, Redondo Beach, Riviera Homeowners Association, voiced support for the proposal before the City Council.

Ms. Josey Vanderpas, 4308 Newton Street, stated that the Waltheria Hillside Homeowners polled residents with the majority requesting Recommendation Item #1 with additional stop signs on Newton Street be installed first, and they were opposed to Recommendation #4, removal of the "no left turn" sign from Hawthorne Boulevard to Newton Street, 244<sup>th</sup> Street and 242<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Dr. John Anagnost, 4022 W. 242<sup>nd</sup> Street, voiced support for the proposal before the City Council.

Mr. Trent Plungas, 24243 Ocean Avenue, commended the City of Torrance staff for a great job and reiterated the need to retain the "no left turn" sign at Vista Montana and Newton Street.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry of the removal of the sign at Vista Montana and Newton Street, Project Manager Sedadi related that there was not a safety issue involved and that the sign could be left intact.

In response to Councilmember Walker's inquiry regarding police presence to enforce these new restrictions, Police Chief Herren commented that police presence could be increased but when police are not there, people often revert back to a former routine.

Mr. Herbert Funk, 4307 Newton Street, requested that diverters not be taken out.

A brief discussion ensued, and it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with Phase 1 of the proposal on an experimental basis for one year.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lee moved to concur with staff recommendations with the exception of Recommendation #3, removal of the "no left turn" sign at Vista Montana and Newton Street. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### 15. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

15a. Councilmember Horwich expressed appreciation for the delightful summer musical and the "Concert in the Park" sponsored by the Torrance Symphony Association, which had an attendance of about 750 people.

15b. Councilmember Messerlian joined Councilmember Horwich in expressing appreciation for the outstanding "Concert in the Park," and voiced concern for certain storefront property owners designating parking spaces for their business only.

15c. In response to Councilmember Messerlian's concern about the parking spaces, Planning Director Gibson related that the Code prohibits parking space assignment to individuals but does allow assignment to stores.

15d. Councilmember Lee inquired about any plans for a Police Station Open House.

15e. Police Chief Herren related that a Police Station Open House was being planned in conjunction with Police Memorial Week in May.

15f. Councilmember Messerlian announced that at the Rodeo, Chief Bongard was the "Head Buckeroo."

15g. Councilmember O'Donnell related that both she and Councilmember Messerlian had the opportunity to drive a bus. She also reminded Torrance residents that the Torrance City Council, unlike some other councils, receives only \$100 per month.

#### 16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:13 p.m., City Council and Redevelopment Agency adjourned to Tuesday, August 17, 1999, at 5:30 p.m. for an Executive Session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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**Adjourned in Memory of  
Retired Fire Capt. Joseph Warren**

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

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City Clerk of the City of Torrance